

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A patient ventilating and aspirating system, comprising:
a pressurised source of gases,
gases transport means adapted to convey said gases in use to said patient, a patient connector, adapted to deliver said gases to a patient through a tracheostomy or endotracheal tube fitting, said patient connector adapted to be in fluid communication with said gases transport means in use,

a catheter mount that is substantially tubular and adapted to be fitted in use between said patient connector and said gases transport means, said catheter mount including an additional passageway for receiving an aspirating system, said passageway covered by a seal, said seal including a re-sealing mechanism, and a suction tube, with a distal end and a proximal end, surrounded by a collapsible envelope, said distal end fitted with a distal connector and said proximal end being moveable through a proximal connector attached to said envelope, said distal connector adapted to allow said distal end of said suction tube to be connected to a suction means in use, said proximal connector being releasably connected to said catheter mount, said proximal connector including a piercing member capable of piercing said seal when said proximal connector and said catheter mount are connected, said suction tube capable of passing through said piercing member and not contacting said seal.

2. (Original) A patient ventilating and aspirating system according to claim 1 wherein said proximal connector is adapted such that when connected to said catheter mount a chamber is formed, said chamber surrounding said sealing means and creating a dead space therein.

3. (Original) A patient ventilating and aspirating system according to claim 2 wherein said proximal connector and said catheter mount are adapted such that when connected, adjacent surfaces on said proximal connector and said catheter mount abut to form a seal and prevent gases leaking into said chamber through said seal from exiting to the atmosphere.

4. (Original) A patient ventilating and aspirating system according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said connection between said catheter mount and said proximal connector is a bayonet fitting.

5. (Currently Amended) A patient ventilating and aspirating system according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 4 wherein said seal is made from an elastomeric material; and provides a substantially airtight seal at normal operating pressures.

6. (Original) A patient ventilating and aspirating system according to claim 5 wherein said seal includes a perforation, said perforation allowing the piercing of said seal by said piercing member, where said elastomeric material re-seal said passageway once said proximal connector is detached from said catheter mount.

7. (Original) A patient ventilating and aspirating system according to claim 2 wherein said chamber and said dead space are shaped in such a manner that gases within said gases transport conduit that may leak through said seal once pierced are enclosed and contained

within said dead space.

8. (Currently Amended) A patient ventilating and aspirating system according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to ~~7~~ wherein said passageway through said catheter mount allows passage of said suction tube there through and entry into said tracheostomy or endotracheal fitting without said suction tube contacting the internal walls of said catheter mount.

9. (Currently Amended) A patient ventilating and aspirating system according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to ~~8~~ wherein said proximal connector includes a washer to wipe said suction tube upon removal of said suction tube from said catheter mount.

10. (Original) A suction tube and connector for connecting to a catheter mount having a sealed passageway comprising:

a tube, with a distal end and a proximal end,

a collapsible envelope surrounding said tube,

a distal connector fitted to said distal end and adapted to allow said distal end of said suction tube to be connected to a suction means in use,

a proximal connector attached to said envelope that said proximal end of said tube is moveable through,

said proximal connector that is releasably connected to said catheter mount,

a piercing member that is capable of piercing said seal and said suction tube is capable of passing through said piercing member and not contact said seal.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~patient ventilating and aspirating system~~ suction tube according to claim 10 wherein said proximal connector is adapted such that when connected to said catheter mount a chamber is formed, said chamber surrounding said sealing means and creating a dead space therein.

12-13. (Cancelled)